

LINCOLN COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
SERMON OUTLINE
April 11th, 2021
Matthew 10:39

RECAP: Last time in Matthew, we looked at this passage where Christ commands us to be prepared to give up our literal lives for His sake.

THESIS: Life will never be found in self-seeking. Life will never be had from putting the self in front of others.

EXEGESIS: Matthew 10:39 (*see also Mark 8:35, Matthew 16:25, Luke 9:24, Luke 17:33, John 12:25.*)

- This is easily one of the most repeated statements in the GNT. The Mark 8:35 reference includes the words “for the Gospel,” as opposed to the others. And even John includes this statement.
- Greek word for “**find/seek**” means more about “having already” than “constantly seeking.”
- Greek word for “life” is “*psukas*” or “**soul/life.**” An individual’s personal life, with no implications as to the quality of it either way.
- Greek word for “**loss/destroy**” is “*apollumi*,” where we get our word “apocalypse” from. It means more so to “destroy, end totally,” than just lose something that can be found again later.
- We can establish that this verse is designed to be proverbial and paradoxical. This is clearly phrased to be ironic.
- **Two interpretations:**
 - **General:** Jesus is stating that in general, the one who puts his own life ahead of the Kingdom of God, will not enjoy life.
 - **Specific to context:** Jesus is stating to these disciples that the one who is willing to deny his own literal life, and sacrifice it for the Gospel, will be rewarded eternally.
- **Point:** To be a disciple is to be willing to sacrifice some life on this Earth. If we are not a people who put the Lord first and seek self-denial, then we are not modeling Christ.
- The *implication* is whatever you choose, the opposite will be your inevitable outcome.
 - You prefer to seek and find your life on this Earth, eventually the day will come when it will mean nothing, all wasted, with no eternal benefit, and no eternal reward.
 - Inversely, if you live your life here being willing and ready to “lose” it, to put it aside, have it attacked, destroyed, and generally put aside, you will benefit.
 - This affects both this temporal life here, and more importantly, the eternal one to come. **Matt 5:10-11; Phil 1:21.**

CONCLUSION:

1. Self-denial must be a characteristic of believers in Christ that seek eternal life.
2. Believers in Christ experience life, joy, and eternal reward, both here and now, when they learn to deny themselves and live like Christ does.